

**Lamoine Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes – April 9, 2008**

Present for the Commission were: Fred Stocking, Chair, Carol Korty, Donna Theall, and Lynda Tadema-Wielandt

Alternates: Annie Crisafulli

Associates: Nancy Pochan and Joan Strout

Others in attendance: Don Bamman, Willem Brustsaert, Kathy DeFusco, Lucia Michielli, Ken Smith

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.

1. Minutes of February 13, 2008 were read, voted on, and approved 5 to 0 with some corrections.

2. Freshwater Initiative – Carol Korty heard from John Peckenham regarding the letter LCC sent to him. He was very appreciative of the letter, saying that it would help him when he applies for grants, and he intends to frame it and put it on his office wall.

Teresa Thornton is coming back full time to Umaine in the fall to work on her Ph.D.

Bob Pulver had intended, but was unable, to finish the grant request to the Maine Community Foundation requesting funds for test materials and to help pay for a graduate student assistant. He feels confident that he can meet the May 15 deadline. The GET WET! public meeting went very well and a week later there was a nice article and photo in the Ellsworth American.

3. Planning Board and Selectfolk Concerns – Mike Garrett, Planning Board member, said that there would not be a June special Town Meeting. He indicated that there might be a referendum in November, but it was not certain. Mike also mentioned that there will be a public meeting to discuss the Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone Amendment.

He stated that Carol Korty had offered the help of the Conservation Commission to do research for them from time to time. Carol indicated that she had asked the Planning Board if they had looked into cluster housing and its advantages. She stated that cluster housing is not a Maine tradition, but feels it “may catch on here.” Our ordinance indicates that cluster housing requires municipal water and sewage. LCC will research other town ordinances on cluster housing. Ken Smith asked that we also consider Conservation Subdivision Ordinances. He believes it is more eco-friendly and better planned development in that it sets aside desirable open space. Falmouth, ME has this type of development.

Carol Korty brought up a comment made by a Selectman that minutes needed to be prepared in a reasonable time and not delivered all at once, months in arrears. LTW mentioned that she knew the minutes were late and Fred mentioned that he did not always forward them to his mailing list. Discussed and decided to have draft minutes submitted for review and to Stu within two days of meeting.

4. Union River Watershed Coalition recently held a public forum focusing on climate change and its effects on our freshwater and marine ecosystems. Fred Stocking mentioned that MEACC (Maine Association of Conservation Commissions) will hold their annual meeting at the Maine Coast Heritage Trust's 2008 Maine Land Conservation Conference in support of its Maine Land Trust Network program and Maine's land conservation community. The theme will be *Connecting Conservation and Communities*. It will be held at the Brunswick High School May 2nd and 3rd.

Fred mentioned that Bob Shafto, Director of MEACC wrote an article printed in the Bangor Daily News, "Conservation Conscience" on March 17, 2008. Also working on a project to bolster the municipal role in land conservation. Fred suggests that we make intense use of MEACC during this year of membership.

Once again LCC missed the deadline for Project Canopy. We believe that once the school reorganization is decided, we can focus our attention that program.

5. Conservation Award Presentation – It went well. Three members of the LCC were present. The award was presented before the official start of town meeting. Donna Theall asked John Holt to come forward, read the letter of commendation, and handed him the framed letter. John said a few words of appreciation.

6. Land Conservation Reserve Fund – It was approved with no discussion. It was in an article with two other requests.

7. Intertidal Zone – Annie Crisafulli said that they will meet to revive the group in two to three weeks. She indicated they need a Chair, but that she'll do it in the interim.

Carol Korty attended a meeting of Friends of Taunton Bay held at the Franklin Town Hall on March 18. She met a resource person, Slade Moore, marine biologist and aquatic ecologist, formerly with the Maine Department of Marine Resources who is working with Friends of Taunton Bay to monitor horseshoe crab movement in the Bay. He and Steve Perrin are affixing high frequency transmitters to their backs. The next meeting of FOTB is April 15.

Joan Strout said she had been corresponding and getting information about dragging. Frederick Short and Hilary Nichols have written, "The Effect of Global Climate Change on Seagrasses," which talks about the damage done to these grasses and the product of its rich nurseries. They have discovered that it takes more than 11 years for restoration of damaged areas. These are very lush areas full of nutrients. They are affected by land uses such as fertilizers and erosion. There was a recent article (January 28, 2008) about eelgrass restoration and water quality monitoring in Bar Harbor by the Marine Resources Committee.

Joan has learned that towns can establish a conservation plan that regulates the harvesting by dragging of shellfish in the intertidal zone. Gouldsboro has a pilot plan to protect their shellfish stocks by determining what areas can and cannot be opened to draggers. Other measures suggested are requiring licenses to harvest shellfish.

Joan concludes with these six points:

1. Gather interested parties for organization and ideas.
2. Find out how other towns protect their intertidal zones.
3. Develop a plan.

4. Educate, educate, educate.
5. Learn the Legislature.
6. Help support our local DMR.

Carol said that Taunton Bay has scallops, kelp, mussels, urchins. Lee Hudson believes that mussels can be dragged, but the others must be hand harvested.

8. Recycling – Regarding the compost bins and wing diggers, Annie Crisafulli said the deadline to order is this coming Monday. Eleven compost bins and quite a few wing diggers have been ordered. A number of towns are now selling compost bins. They will be available at the transfer station on May 10, 8 – 1 for pickup. Need volunteers and material regarding recycling to distribute to the general public.

Annie said that the glass bottles are all thrown into the landfills because there is no market for them. Ken Smith said that our glass is taken to Bangor where it is crushed and used as a base for pipes. Our hauler is Pine Tree Waste. MRRA (Maine Resource Recovery Association) markets paper, metal, plastics cardboard.

8. Planning for Summer – On May 14 we have Drs. Disney and Kidder coming to speak about eelgrass restoration. Suggestions for other talks: Greenhouse gas emissions/containment/reduction; Jeremiah Graham-“green” construction of condos; Susa Wuorinen is interested in working on a lighting reduction ordinance and Don Bamman is interested in helping; Linda Penkalski, astronomer, to do field trip to Lamoine Beach and talk about the firmament – perhaps together with the Park Commission. Nancy Pochan will ask Linda.

Ken Smith invited everyone to a bake sale and auction to be held on Saturday, April 12 at Life Christian Academy, Rte. 3 in Ellsworth. Proceeds to benefit Habitat for Humanity’s Hobey House in Otis. Auction at 11:00.

9. Adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lynda Tadema-Wielandt, Secretary.

Reviewed and accepted by the Lamoine Conservation Commission on April 9, 2008 by a vote of ___ to ___.

Fred Stocking, Chair